

weather report

65°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 45 degrees
- Humidity 15 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northwest 9
- Barometer 30.32 inches and falling
- Record High 79° (1995)
- Record Low 5° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High	46°
Low	26°
Precipitation	.15

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low 30s, winds light and variable. Tomorrow: clear, high 60s, low 30s, winds light.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: clear, high 60s, low 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Book 'em



Author John Gardiner spoke today to students and teachers at North Elementary School, encouraging all in the audience to write. Each story needs to have a want, a struggle and a surprise, he said. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Bad speller is successful writer

Author says we all have a story to tell

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Someone who struggled with grammar and spelling and has flunked an English class might be the last person anyone would expect to write books for a living, much less to be successful at it.

But that's John Gardiner. And with three books published, one of which has been made into a movie and sold over 150,000 copies, successful describes him as a writer.

Gardiner's books include: *Stone Fox*, published in 1980; *Top Secret*, published in 1985; and *General Butterfingers*, published in 1986.

Stone Fox was made into a movie in 1987 and now sells 5,000 copies per month in paperback.

Gardiner is speaking at area schools to encourage children to write and teachers to get the best story out of them. Everyone has a story to tell, he said, one that no one else can.

Three things that are needed to make a story work, he said, are want, struggle and surprise. At the beginning of the story, he said, the main character wants something. There is a struggle to attain it. Reaching the goal is not necessarily a surprise, he said, but how the goal is attained is surprising.

He told about a book written by a 9-year-old boy. It's about a hippopotamus with the hiccups. The hippo wants to get rid of the hiccups. He tries everything, Gardiner said, but nothing works — that is the hopeless part of the struggle.

The surprise ending, he said, is that a spider crawls up onto the hippo's foot and scares him — the hiccups go away.

If you take the struggle away, he said, there is no story.



Students at North Elementary responded to Author John Gardiner's questions and had questions for him when he spoke to them today.

Anyone of any age can get a story published, Gardiner said, and he knows that because he has been rejected by the 9-year-old author's publisher.

But that was far from the first rejection he had experienced. Teachers gave him poor grades on writing assignments all through school, he said, and his high school English teacher told him he would never make it in college English. It turned out the teacher was right. Gardiner said he had to take "dumbbell" English at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Fellow students would have given him "A's," he said, because they liked what he wrote. But teachers gave him

Officials want a grant writer

County endorses new program

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

In a two-pronged effort, the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday endorsed a proposed grant writer program, and endorsed being part of a regional group seeking a state grant for a business development program.

Schlyer Goodwin of the Goodland Development Corp. told commissioners and said after weeks of working on a management contract for the grant writer, there was a draft agreement.

Goodwin said he has been working with Commissioner Kevin Rasure, City Manager Ron Pickman and Goodland School Board member Ron Schilling to work out a basic agreement to operate the program.

Under the plan the county, city and school board would share the expenses for hiring a person to be the grant writer. Goodwin said the plan will be to hire an independent contractor to be the grant writer, and the person must live in Sherman County.

There would be an advisory board with a representative from each of the three entities and an additional two selected at large to keep any one from controlling the program.

Goodwin said the proposal would be

for each partner to pledge \$12,000 a year or \$1,000 a month for the program, with a total budget of \$36,000.

The advisory board will meet with the grant writer monthly to review potential projects. That board will decide which projects the grant writer will tackle, and in what order.

Goodwin said the source of the grant and deadlines will be part of the decision process.

"I am enthused about the project, and the cost is reasonable," said Commissioner Rasure. "I like the fact the person would live in Sherman County."

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfled agreed that the project appeared to be worthwhile, and that any grants received would be more than they are seeing now.

Rasure made the motion to endorse the program, seconded by Frankenfled. The vote was unanimous with Commissioner Mitch Tiede voting in favor.

Goodwin said it will take several months to get the program organized, and he has yet to get the approval of the city and school board.

He is to meet with the city on Monday, and the school board the next

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Driver says road bound to be killer

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Leon Nielsen, an anesthetist who lives west of Goodland, told Sherman County commissioners Tuesday he is afraid there will be a fatality on County Road 65 because of speeding trucks and people who don't stop at stop signs.

"I almost got hit myself," he said, "and I believe it will only be a matter of time before there is a serious accident."

He said the road, also known as West Eighth Street, seems to be getting rougher since the surface was chip sealed over a year ago. Parts of the surface appear ready to fall apart unless some action is taken by the county.

Nielsen said he has been living there since 1994, and has lost three windshields because of rocks kicked up by speeding trucks.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he had been looking at the road and agreed that there are some areas that need to be taken care of. He said he had mentioned it to Curt Way, county public works director.

Alex West met with the commissioners to ask they sign a form to allow him to have a supplemental location for salvage storage on his property in the county.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she was not sure the county needed to sign the form, and suggested the commissioners have a letter drafted which

said the county does not have any zoning.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel drafted a letter saying the county has no zoning, and it was given to West to submit with the form.

Darin Miller, director of external affairs for Southwestern Bell from Garden City, met with the commissioners to introduce himself, and talk about what the telephone company sees happening in the future.

"We are glad to see S & T coming in here," he said. "We encourage competition on an even basis because we believe that will give us a fair chance to grow our business."

He was asked about the company's position on the 911 cellular upgrade, which would allow 911 operators to pinpoint the location of mobile callers.

"We will help, but I do not know what our part will be," he said. "This is more of a state decision to be decided by the Legislature."

The commissioners tabled the appointment to the city/county recreation board because they did not have any names and were not sure what the status of the board was. Clerk Rumpel said the county representatives currently are Sally Pettibone and Steve Duell.

Commissioner Rasure made a motion to remove Way as a member of the County Solid Waste Committee and to appoint Tom Betz. Way is to be an advisor to the committee.

Anti-missile agreement not in cards for summit

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) — As talks between President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin shifted to Bush's Texas ranch, White House officials said today that an accord on anti-missile defenses is not in the cards for this summit.

"Don't look for anything of that nature," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer told reporters on the second day of talks between Bush and Putin.

"This is one stop along the road. We'll make other stops after Crawford but each stop is built on the positive results of the earlier meetings."

On this stop, at the president's rural, 1,600-acre Prairie Chapel Ranch, Bush was focused on building his budding personal relationship with Putin.

After Putin's afternoon arrival, he and his wife were being treated to what one aide called "a finger-lickin' Texas dinner" of guacamole, peppered beef, smoked catfish and pecan pie.

Gray skies threatened to dampen the open-air picnic but Bush remained eager for "an informal chance to break bread and to cover

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afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Alliance takes power in city

KABUL, Afghanistan — The northern alliance took over key symbols of power in Kabul, including the defense ministry, today despite a pledge to support a broad-based government. Anti-Taliban forces took control of the airport outside the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, U.S. and Afghan sources said, as well as the eastern city of Jalalabad.

The new gains were scored by local leaders unaffiliated with the northern alliance, including ethnic Pashtuns, long the backbone of Taliban support. The U.S. effort to foster dissent among Pashtun leaders has persuaded some of the groups to rise up, although tribes are acting on their own volition, a U.S. official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Pashtun fighters had taken Kandahar's airport.

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